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June 3, 2002

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Your Reference: 09/402,488
Our Reference: 9369-98

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

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JUN 04 2002

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sirs:

Re: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
United States Patent Application No. 09/402,488
Filed: February 16, 2000
Title: Method For Cleavage of Fusion Proteins
Inventors: Maurice Moloney, Joenel Alcantara and Gijs van Rooijen
Group Art Unit: 1652
Examiner: D. Steadman

The present letter is filed in response to the office action dated December 4, 2001. Applicants are simultaneously filing herewith a petition for a three month extension of time rendering the due date for reply June 4, 2002.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

As requested by the Examiner, we are providing a copy of all of the pending claims. We point out that only claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 27 have been amended by the present amendment.

1. (Twice Amended). A method for the preparation of a recombinant polypeptide comprising
- a) transforming a host cell with an expression vector comprising: